Rate of Customs duty under FTA

†328. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India does foreign trade under the Free Trade Agreement with various countries of the world;

(b) if so, the countries with whom foreign trade was going on till December, 2005 under the Free Trade Agreement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that rate of the custom duty under the Free Trade Agreement remains less than the ordinary custom duty; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the difference between the two rates of custom duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The following Free Trade Agreements (FTA) signed with India's trading partners have been implemented till December 2005:—

(i) India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade and Commerce

(ii) India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement

(iii) Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Singapore

(iv) Early Harvest Scheme of 82 tariff lines under Framework Agreement for establishing a Free Trade Area between India and Thailand.

(c) and (d) Under an FTA, the trading partners exchange tariff concessions on items of export interest to each other. The difference between the preferential duty under FTA and the basic custom duty vary from product to product and range from 0-100%. The preferential duty also varies from agreement to agreement.

Agricultural Products dumped into Indian markets

329. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of cheap imported agricultural

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

products like tea, cotton, rise have been dumped in Indian markets to the detriment of Indian agriculture;

(b) if so, in respect of which items antidumping cases have come up during the last three years;

(c) the total amount of imports of each such product, dumped in Indian market during these years, country-wise; and

(d) what safeguards have been provided under the W.T.O regime against the protectionist tariff regime in various developed countries and which products have been kept in the negative list part of anti-dumping measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Anti-dumping investigations are normally initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) on the basis of application filed by the domestic industry alleging dumping, injury and causal link between dumping and injury. The DGAD has, till date, not initiated any anti-dumping investigations involving agricultural products.

(d) The WTO has a Dispute Settlement Machanism and in case any measure by a WTO member is deemed inconsistent with the provisions of WTO Agreements, affected Member may resort to the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanisum. There is no negative list of products either under the WTO Anti-dumping Agreement or the domestic Rules.

Small Industrial Colonies

†330. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up small industrial colonies throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of industrial colonies existing at present in the country; and

(d) the number of proposed industrial colonies to be set up in near future, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.